

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
AVIONICS SHOP
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2778)
Connecticut Road
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-Q

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE
AVIONICS SHOP
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2778)

HAER No. NY-326-Q

Location: Connecticut Road, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York
UTM: 18.622940:4945140
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1956

Architect/Engineer: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Building No. 2778 was built to house the maintenance facilities necessary to service highly sophisticated aviation equipment and accessories, especially communications equipment.

Project Information: Building No. 2778 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

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Summary Description of Avionics Shop (Building No. 2778)

Layout

Building No. 2778 is a one-story, flat roof, concrete block building with an irregularly shaped plan. It is constructed atop a concrete slab foundation. The main section of the building measures 144'-6" x 168'-0". Two offsets—measuring 16'-4" x 34'-8", and 16'-4" x 48'-7 1/2"—are located off the rear facade. The building has minimal fenestration. The interior rooms are arranged around a U-shaped corridor. The Building's two small offsets are on its east and west façades, and there are two penthouses, one centered on the north side and another at the building's southwest corner.

The rear façade was used for deliveries and has one overhead garage door; another vehicle delivery bay with a concrete ramp has been filled in.

Alterations/Additions

Building No. 2778 has had few exterior alterations. In 1966, a vehicle delivery ramp was installed. Subsequently, the doorway was filled in, although the concrete ramp remains in place.

Function

Constructed in 1956, Building No. 2778 was originally designed to provide space for the repair and general maintenance of highly sophisticated avionics support equipment used in support of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) mission.

Significance

World War II and the onset of the Cold War brought forth an explosion in the science of aviation electronics, especially in relation to communications. As such, Building No. 2778 accommodated organizational and intermediate-level maintenance activities on airborne communications equipment, cameras, bombing systems, and related equipment, including secure voice, and data link pods. Building No. 2778 also provided secure storage for major items such as storage racks for serviceable equipment and equipment waiting maintenance/parts; storage for coding devices; technical data and code books; pod lifting devices; cradles, storage racks and secure storage; and corrosion protection for delicate electronic equipment.

Because aviation electronics were essential to the United States Cold War mission, and the Avionics Shop was essential to keeping such sophisticated equipment in reliable and usable condition, Building No. 2778 was critical to the Plattsburgh AFB mission.

Sources

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United States Air Force

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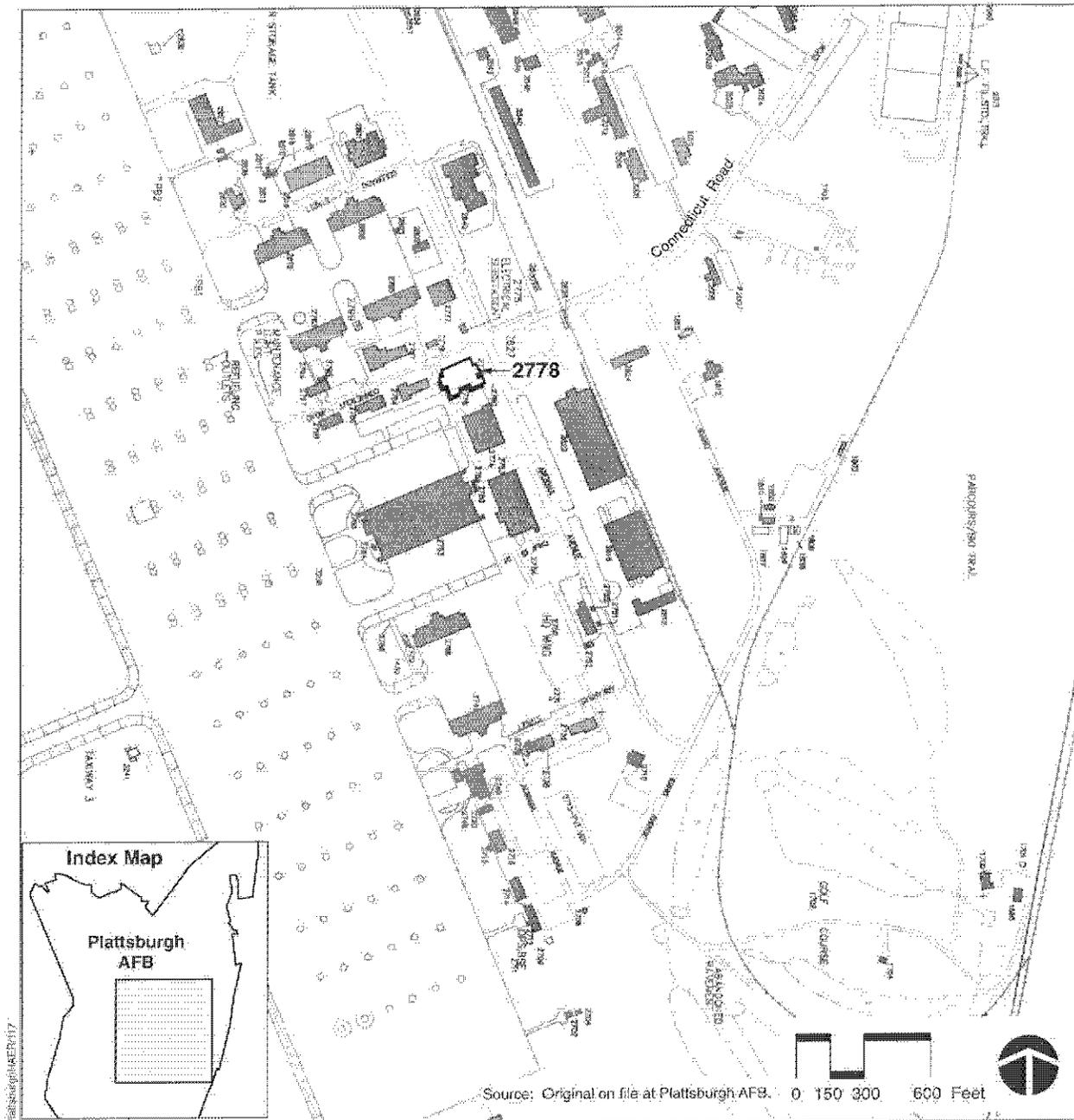
United States Air Force

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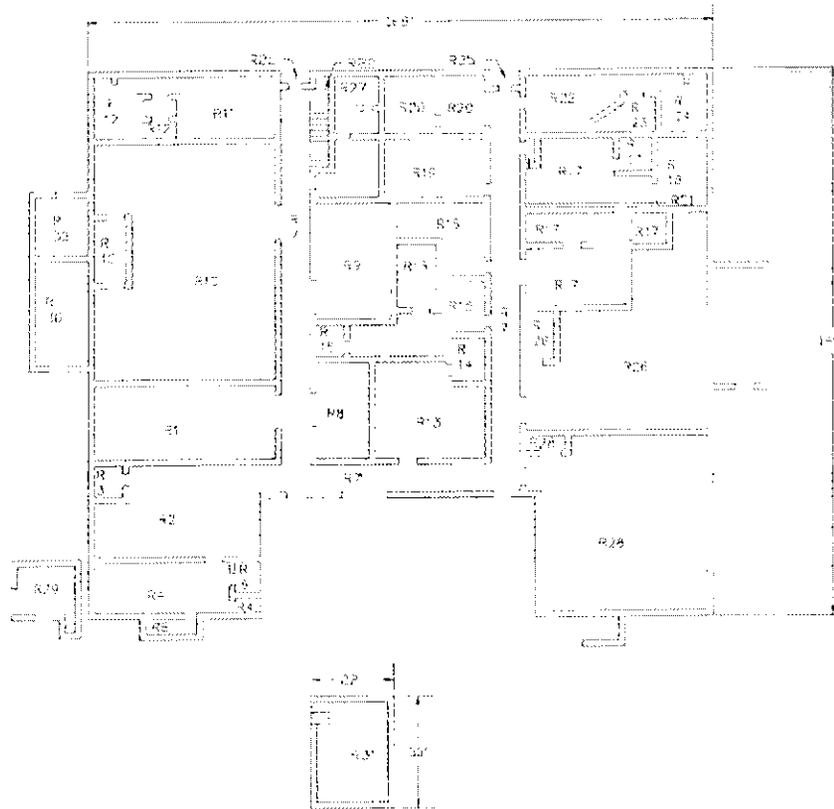
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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE
AVIONICS SHOP
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2778)
HAER No. NY-326-Q (Page 4)



Location Map for Avionics Shop Building, Building No. 2778
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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
AVIONICS SHOP
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2778)
HAER No. NY-326-Q
(Page 5)



*Room numbers are strictly for location purposes only.

SKETCH PLAN—AVIONICS SHOP
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2778)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)
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